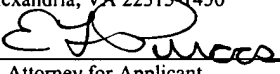
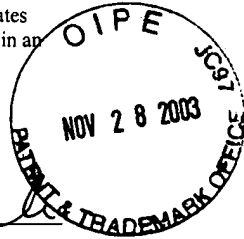


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Attorney for Applicant

Date: 26 November 2003



Application No. : 10/629,887
Applicant : Milton, et al.
Filed : 29 July 2003
TC/A.U. : 3765
Examiner : Not Yet Known
Title : ARTICLE DISPENSING AND COUNTING METHOD AND DEVICE
Atty. Docket No. : DB000974-001
Customer No. : 24122

To: Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned application, please find the following:

- An Information Disclosure Statement; and
- Form PTO/SB/08A and a copy of two (2) references.

Also enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner is a courtesy copy of the International Search Report as received in connection with a foreign counterpart application. Additionally enclosed is a return postcard. Please date stamp and mail the postcard in order to acknowledge receipt of the above-reference correspondence. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0888. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

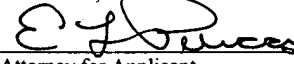


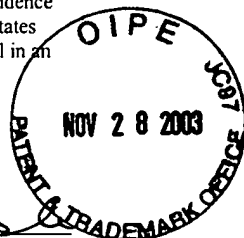
Edward L. Pencoske
Reg. No. 29,688
Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP
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301 Grant Street
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Tel.: 412/394-7789
Fax: 412/394-2555
Attorney for Applicant

Dated: 26 November 2003

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To: Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Information Disclosure Statement

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97-98, enclosed herewith is:

☒ Form PTO/SB/08A

☐ Form PTO/SB/08B

listing references for consideration by the Examiner. Except for U.S. patents, a copy is enclosed herewith of each listed reference which may be material to the examination of this application, and with respect to which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation regarding the completeness of the list of references, or that inclusion of a reference in this list is an admission that it is "prior art" to this application, or that a search has been made, or as an admission that the information listed is, or may be considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56, or that no other material information exists, and shall not be construed as an admission against applicant(s) interest in any manner.

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed pursuant to:

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1); no fee is required;
OR

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2); no fee is required;
OR

☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3); no fee is required;
OR

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4); no fee is required;
OR

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c);
AND either

☐ The fee set forth in §1.17(p) is attached; OR

Applicant certifies pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(e) that:

☐ each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement; OR

☐ no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated under 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement;

OR

- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d); the fee set forth in §1.17(p) is attached,
AND
- ☐ each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement; OR
- ☐ no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated under 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

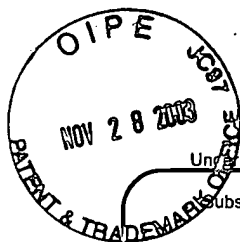
Applicants respectfully request that the listed references be considered by the Examiner, and that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of these references by initialing and returning a copy of the attached form(s) with the next Official Action.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: 26 November 2003

Edward L. Pencoske
Reg. No. 29,688
Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP
One Oxford Centre, 14th Floor
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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1425
Tel.: 412/394-7789
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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/629,887
Filing Date	29 July 2003
First Named Inventor	Milton, et al.
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	Not Yet Known
Attorney Docket Number	DB000974-000

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 3,045,864	07/24/1962	K.J. Hurst et al.	
		US- 3,170,627	02/23/1965	W.G. Pearson et al.	
		US- 3,215,310	11/02/1965	K.J. Hurst et al.	
		US- 3,266,664	08/16/1966	W.G. Pearson et al.	
		US- 3,368,713	02/13/1968	K.J. Hurst et al.	
		US- 3,837,139	09/24/1974	Roseberg	
		US- 4,018,358	04/19/1977	Johnson et al.	
		US- 4,111,332	09/05/1978	Hurst et al.	
		US- 4,171,065	10/16/1979	Hurst	
		US- 4,247,019	01/27/1981	Lerner	
		US- 4,382,527	05/10/1983	Lerner	
		US- 4,597,091	06/24/1986	Blake	
		US- 4,697,721	10/06/1987	Johnson et al.	
		US- 4,869,394	09/26/1989	Hurst	
		US- 5,473,703	12/05/1995	Smith	
		US- 5,638,417	06/10/1997	Boyer et al.	
		US- 5,671,262	09/23/1997	Boyer et al.	
		US- 5,713,487	02/03/1998	Coughlin	
		US- 5,762,235	06/09/1998	Coughlin	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

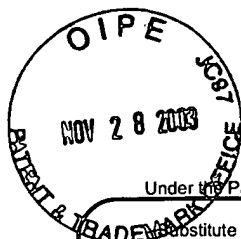
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		WO 02/30789 A1	04-18-2002	Cadbury Schweppes PLC		
		EP 0 761 197 A1	12-03-1997	Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.		

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Sheet 2 of 2

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/629,887
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First Named Inventor	Milton, et al.
Art Unit	3765
Examiner Name	Not Yet Known
Attorney Docket Number	DB000974-000

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,787,678	08/04/1998	Koike et al.	
		US- 5,812,410	09/22/1998	Lion et al.	
		US- 5,860,563	1/19/1999	Guerra et al.	
		US- 5,884,806	03/23/1999	Boyer et al.	
		US- 5,897,024	04/27/1999	Coughlin et al.	
		US- 5,907,493	05/25/1999	Boyer et al.	
		US- 6,053,302	04/25/2000	Leu et al.	
		US- 6,085,938	07/11/2000	Coughlin	
		US- 6,109,193	08/29/2000	Crabb et al.	
		US- 6,161,721	12/19/2000	Kudera et al.	
		US- 6,256,967	07/10/2001	Hebron et al.	
		US- 6,343,711	02/05/2002	Coughlin	
		US- 6,370,215	04/09/2002	Pinto et al.	
		US-			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

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